

REMARKS

As amended, the claim is specific that the coupling region must be a region where two distinct waveguides are parallel, do not touch, but are sufficiently close to one another that coupling occurs. Moreover, "segmented" is defined as including gaps along the coupling region.

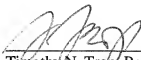
None of these features are present in the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Lee teaches a pair of cores 102, 110 which touch. The segmentation that is apparently referred to is a stepwise taper, not the presence of gaps.

The reference to Adar only teaches one waveguide, not two waveguides with gaps in a coupling region where the two waveguides approach but do not touch.

Therefore reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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